Explore ADA Advocacy Activity in 2023

Federal Advocacy

BIPARTISAN WORKFORCE LEGISLATION

Aided the introduction of the Bipartisan Primary Care and Health Workforce Act, which would improve access to and the quality of primary health care that would also expand the oral health care workforce.

ACTION FOR DENTAL HEALTH (ADH) PROGRAM

Continued to lobby for more funding toward the ADH program, which provides federal funding through the HRSA State Oral Health Workforce Grants to address the dental health needs of underserved populations.

DOC ACCESS REFORM

Continued support advocating for the Dentist and Optometric Care Access Act or the DOC Access Act in Congress to foster insurance competition, benefit consumers, and bring balance to contract negotiations. DOC Access Act prohibits dental and vision plans from setting the fees network doctors may charge for services not covered by the insurers.

STUDENT LOAN REFORM

Continued to lead on efforts with other dental and medical organizations to push for bipartisan legislation that would ease the burden of dental school debt, and also secured long-sought reforms to the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program.

TRICARE REFORM

Urged Congress to increase resources for VA Dentistry to provide full access to dental care for veterans eligible for VA dental benefits and supported VET CARE Act to create a new pilot program for veterans with diabetes.

State Advocacy

149 NEW DENTAL INSURANCE REFORM LAWS

Between 2018 and 2023 successfully advocated for 149 new dental insurance reform laws across the United States.

21 States with New Network Leasing Laws

Between 2018 and 2023 successfully protected dentists in 21 states from being pawned off to different insurance networks without knowledge or consent.

21 States with New Virtual Credit Card Laws

Between 2018 and 2023 successfully gave dentists in 21 states a say in how they get reimbursed for care.

MEDICAID REFORM

The ADA develops resources that state dental societies have used to reform their Medicaid programs, making it easier for dentists to participate and deliver patient care. Federal advocacy continues to ensure states provide comprehensive dental services to adult Medicaid beneficiaries.

THE DENTIST AND DENTAL HYGIENIST LICENSURE COMPACT

Three states have passed legislation designed to allow dentists to practice in multiple states (WA, IA, and TN), three more have active legislation for 2023 (OH, PA, NJ), and nearly a dozen states are expected to file this legislation in 2024. Seven states total must pass the DDH Compact before it becomes effective.

ADPAC
American Dental Political Action Committee
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